

Recognizing the increasing role Iran plays in not only Middle Eastern affairs but global security issues as well, my colleague Robert Andrews (D-NJ) and I created the Iran Working Group in 2004 to help educate members and staff on issues regarding Iran. We meet monthly to hear from some of the United States' top experts on Iranian issues.

Our featured speaker yesterday was Nicholas Burns, the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs – the State Department's third-ranking diplomat.

Under Secretary Burns discussed the State Department's strategy for seeking another United Nations Security Council resolution, citing Iran's refusal to comply with international law. He also discussed efforts that the administration is taking to engage Iran in multilateral talks regarding Iraq.

The Under Secretary stressed one of the main principles of the Iran Working Group, which is joining with our European allies, Russia and China to diplomatically prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon. It is the safest and most effective way to improve the security of the Middle East.

